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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Ayako NANJYO, et al.

Serial No. : (U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2004/014389  
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For : ABSORBENT ARTICLE

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450,  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend this application as follows: